Development of Sindhudurg District as Tourist Place

2126. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce New Tourism Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of plans drawn for Maharashtra to attract both domestic and foreign tourist;

(d) whether Government propose to develop Sindhudurg district as a tourist place; and

(e) if so, the plans drawn in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM (KUMARI UMA BHARTI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A draft National Tourism Policy was formulated in 1997. It is being revised. The Policy would take account of the liberalized economic policies of the Government and the emergence of tourism as an important instrument for sustainable human development. The Policy would aim at achieving diversification of tourism product and its sustainable development as a coordinated effort of the Central Government, State Governments and the Private Sector.

(c) The programme developed by Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation to boost tourism in the State include renovation and improvement of existing tourist centres, development of Sindhudurg district, development of water resorts, introduction of luxury train, etc. Central financial assistance is provided to the State Government for the improvement of tourism infrastructure in the respective States. A sum of Rs. 483.77 lakhs has been sanctioned to Government of Maharashtra during 1998-99 for various projects which includes upgradation of infrastructure of Tourist Resorts at Bhandandara, Matheran, Harihareshwar, Gana Patipule, Shirdi, etc., development of Tourist Centre at Sawantwadi and festivals like Pune festival, Elephanta and Ellora festivals.

(d) and (e) Government of Maharashtra has declared Sindhudurg district as "Tourism District" and also established "Sindhudurg

Tourism Development Corporation". A comprehensive tourism development plan have been prepared by the State Government for infrastructure development in the district. A special package of incentives which includes tax benefit for a period of 12 years and concessional rates for Government land have also been announced by the State Government.

Tourism Inflow to Rajasthan

†2127. SHRI ONKAR SINGH LAKHAWAT: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise number of tourists who visited the country during 1998-99 together with the number of the foreign tourists;

(b) the total number of foreign tourists who visited Rajasthan during 1998-99, together with the number of those who visited Pushkar, Jaipur and Jaisalmer; and

(c) the scheme being formulated by Government for the development of tourism in Rajasthan, indicating the amount of fund which would be provided to the State for the purpose during 1999-2000?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (KUMARI UMA BHARTI): (a) As per the information available from the State Governments, the estimated number of visits of tourists together with the number of foreign tourists in different States during calendar year 1998 are as follows:

States	Number of visits of	
	Foreign Tourists	Total Tourists
Andhra Pradesh	82720	39444058
Arunachal Pradesh	34	1083
Assam	754	14658
Bihar	130723	9169869
Goa	272028	1232707
Gujarat	9252	231862
Haryana	1316	260596